

CERTIFICATION OF PUBLICATION

CITY OF BALTIMORE OFFICE OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS PUBLIC NOTICE

PROJECT #1388 – BALTIMORE REGIONAL WATER GOVERNANCE TASKFORCE, PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

The City of Baltimore, Office of Boards and Commissions, has been requested by the Department of Public Works, Office of the Director, to conduct a Request for Proposals (RFP) to perform professional services for the Baltimore Regional Water Governance Taskforce (Taskforce). One (1) firm will be selected to perform the related administrative, scientific, and professional tasks in supporting the Taskforce as it studies approaches to water and wastewater governance in the Baltimore region, and reports its findings in accordance with House Bill 843.

The firms interested in providing these services must demonstrate and document:

- Experience and knowledge in Water and Wastewater systems, governance structures, management, operations, staffing, evaluations and studies.
- Experience and knowledge in water utility rates, rate restructuring, billing, collections, debt management, financials, capital planning, asset leases, debt consolidation, evaluations and studies.
- Project plan detailing how the firm will assist and support the Taskforce in completing its legislative duties and obligations under House Bill 843.
- Availability and ability to complete assignments within time and budget.
- Experience in supporting a Taskforce or committee conduct its meetings.

A detailed scope of work is included in Exhibit A. Dates identified in the deliverables section of the scope of work may be subject to change. The legislative mandate of the Taskforce (House Bill 843) is included in Exhibit B. A copy of the Water/Sewer Services Comprehensive Business Process Review for Baltimore City and Baltimore County, as finalized in July 2021, can found online at:

https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/MDBAL/2021/08/16/file_attachments/1906910/water-sewer-business-process-review.pdf

The City intends to select the service of one (1) firm for a period of one (1) year at an estimated fee not to exceed \$500,000.00.

DPW encourages consulting firms that have the experience and capacity to work on this scope to submit their proposals. All firms must demonstrate and document their capacity and resources to deliver the required services on time.

If further information is required regarding this request, please contact Evelyn Cordero at (410) 396-3310 or by email at Evelyn.Cordero@baltimorecity.gov.

Submittal Process

Each prime consultant applying for this project will be required to complete and submit an original Federal Form 255, along with five (5) copies of the proposal, to the Office of Boards and Commissions. The Federal Form 255 and five (5) copies of the proposal must be submitted on or before 12:00 P.M. (noon) on Monday, **June 26, 2023**. Submittals may not be accepted after this deadline.

The Federal Standard Form (SF) 255 cannot be supplemented with additional pages any additional information such as graphs, photographs, organization chart, etc. All such information should be incorporated into the appropriate pages. Applications should not be bound; should simply be stapled in the upper left-hand corner. Cover sheets should not be included. Inclusion and/or submittal of additional material may result in the applicant being disqualified from consideration for this project.

Firms interested in submitting a proposal for this Project, shall address a "Letter of Interest" to the Office of Boards and Commission, 4 South Frederick Street, 4th Floor, Baltimore, Maryland 21202 (EMAIL: OBC.Consultants@baltimorecity.gov). Since these letters are utilized to assist small minority and women business enterprises in identifying potential learning partners, the letter should be submitted within five (5) days of the date of the project's advertisement. The letter should contain a contact person. Failure to submit a "Letter of Interest" will not disqualify a firm submitting a proposal for the project.

Only individual firms (including, for example, individuals, sole proprietorships, corporations, limited liability companies, limited liability partnerships, and general partnerships) or formal Joint Venture (JV) may apply. Two firms may not apply jointly unless they have formed a joint venture.

Proposal Format

Proposals should be formatted as follows: 12-point Times New Roman font; single spaced; using 1" margins. Proposals should not exceed ten (10) pages. Appendices, resumes and other additional supporting materials or attachments will not count toward the maximum page allotment.

Pre-Proposal Conference

There will be a non-mandatory virtual Pre-Proposal Conference:

Date: Tuesday, June 13, 2023

Time: 2:00 P.M. (ET)

Via: Microsoft Teams meeting

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 223 872 682 858

Passcode: uZurxz

Or call in (audio only)

[+1 667-228-6519,,275774569#](#)

Phone Conference ID: 275 774 569#

Proposers are advised to arrive on-time and take notes as they deem appropriate. The City will not make notes or minutes available. Failure to attend will in no way relieve the Proposer from fulfilling any/all of the requirements, terms and conditions of the solicitation/contract.

The City is under no obligation to inform and/or report the results of the conference (e.g., notes, minutes, etc.) to any Proposer attending or not attending the conference or arriving late, nor will the City provide such documentation. Proposers are advised to attend, to arrive on time and to take notes as they deem appropriate.

It is requested that any and all questions known in advance, or requests to reconsider any of the terms, conditions, and specifications contained herein, be directed via e-mail to the staff contact noted on the front cover, to give the City an adequate opportunity to review the solicitation document and prepare a response to your questions. To the extent possible, all questions received in advance will be answered at the Pre-Proposal Conference.

Verbal and written communications (except written addenda duly issued by the City) by any person(s) at the pre-proposal conference, or at any other time or place, will have no effect on nor otherwise change any term, condition or specification contained herein. Only written addenda duly issued by the City are recognized as amendments to this solicitation.

If there is a need for special accommodations, it is requested that at least five (5) days advance notice be provided.

Evaluation Dates

Qualified and select firms may be invited to an interview with the evaluation panel on Tuesday, July 11, 2023. It is the goal of the project team to issue a Notice to Proceed to the selected firm by Monday, July 31, 2023. Dates may be subject to change.

Prequalification Requirement

All firms listed in the specific proposal for the Project **must** be prequalified by the Office of Boards and Commissions for each applicable discipline *at time of submittal* for this Project. *A copy of the prime and sub consultant's current Prequalification Certificate should be included in the bid submittal package.* Information regarding the prequalification process can be obtained by calling the Office of Boards and Commissions on (410) 396-6883.

Insurance Requirements

The consultant selected for the award of this project shall provide professional liability, auto liability, and general liability and workers' compensation insurances as required by the City of Baltimore.

Local Law Hiring

Article 5, Subtitle 27 of the Baltimore City Code, as amended (the "Local Hiring Law") and its rules and regulations apply to contracts and agreements executed by the City on or after the Local Hiring Law's effective date of December 23, 2013 which is applicable to all vendors. The Local Hiring Law applies to every contract for more than \$300,000 made by the City, or on its behalf, with any person. It also applies to every agreement authorizing assistance valued at more than \$5,000,000 to a City-subsidized project. Please visit www.oedworks.com for details on the requirements of the law.

Additional Requirements

A firm submitting as a prime consultant that fails to comply with the requirements of Article 5, Subtitle 28 of Baltimore City Code when executing a contract is subject to the following penalties: suspension of a contract; withholding of funds; rescission of contract based on material breach; disqualification as a consultant from eligibility to provide services to the City for a period not to exceed 2 years; and payment for damages incurred by the City.

A resume for each person listed as key personnel and/or specialist, including those from MBE and WBE firms, must be shown on the page provided within the application.

Please be advised that for the purpose of reviewing price proposals and invoices, the City of Baltimore defines a principal of a firm as follows:

A principal is any individual owning 5% or more of the outstanding stock of an entity, a partner of a partnership, a 5% or more shareholder of a sub-chapter 'S' Corporation, or an individual owner.

Out-of-State Corporations must identify their corporate resident agent within the application.

Firms will not be considered for a specific project if they apply as both a sub-consultant and prime consultant.

The applications for this Project (Form 255) cannot be supplemented with any additional information such as graphs, photographs, organization chart, etc. All such information should be incorporated into the appropriate pages. Applications should not be bound. Applications should simply be stapled in the upper left-hand corner. Cover sheets should not be included. Inclusion and/or submittal of additional material may result in the applicant being disqualified from consideration for this project.

Failure to follow directions of this advertisement or the application may cause disqualification of the submittal.

Deena Joyce, Chief,
Office of Boards and Commissions

ATTACHMENT A

SERVICES AND/OR SCOPE OF WORK TO BE PERFORMED

The Contractor shall perform the following tasks in accordance with the timelines set forth in Attachment A:

1. **TASK 1:** Incorporate the findings by NewGen Strategies & Solutions Report under Task 1 (Evaluate City-County Existing Service Agreements for Water/Wastewater Services) of the Water/Sewer Services Comprehensive Business Process Review for Baltimore City and Baltimore County, as finalized in July 2021, into the Task Force's findings and recommendations report on or before January 30, 2024.
2. **TASK 2:** Incorporate the findings by NewGen Strategies & Solutions Report under Task 2 (Review the City and County Organizational Structure and Governance Models) of the Water/Sewer Services Comprehensive Business Process Review for Baltimore City and Baltimore County, as finalized in July 2021, into the Task Force's findings and recommendations report on or before January 30, 2024; the task includes:

Review the City and County Organizational Structure and Governance Models

- Task 2.1 - City Organizational Structure
 - Task 2.2 - County Organizational Structure
 - Task 2.3 - Coordinated City-County Governance Model
 - Task 2.4 - Governance Model Examples and Case Reviews
3. **TASK 3:** Review the findings of the NewGen Strategies & Solutions Report under Task 2.4 (Governance Model Examples and Case Reviews) of the Water/Sewer Services Comprehensive Business Process Review for Baltimore City and Baltimore County, as finalized in July 2021 and other existing regional water and wastewater governance models to assess the pros and cons of different regional approaches and impacts to the following:
 - i. management;
 - ii. operations;
 - iii. employee recruitment;
 - iv. retention and training;
 - v. billing and collections;
 - vi. planning for capital improvements;
 - vii. emergency management; and
 - viii. rate stability for customers.
 4. **TASK 4:** Assess alternative governance structures for the Baltimore region's water and wastewater utility, and develop a range of governance structure options for consideration

by the Task Force to include models that services wholesale stakeholders. These alternative governance structures should include frameworks for:

- i. governance;
 - ii. financing;
 - iii. capital planning;
 - iv. future system capacity expansion;
 - v. decision-making processes; and
 - vi. ongoing operations and maintenance of safe, efficient, equitable, and affordable water and wastewater systems serving the Baltimore region.
5. **TASK 5:** Analyze the fiscal implications and efficiencies of each alternative governance structure, including estimated short- and long-term costs, 10-year historical costs that both jurisdictions to include wholesale stakeholders and regional partners have paid to the Utility, and cost-savings associated with:
- i. systems transitions;
 - ii. asset leases and capital planning;
 - iii. rate restructuring for Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and other wholesale stakeholders;
 - iv. debt consolidation and extension;
 - v. staffing and pension liabilities; and
 - vi. other relevant costs to jurisdictions or customers served by the shared systems.
6. **TASK 6:** Recommend the governance model best suited for water and wastewater systems in the Baltimore region and the necessary legislation and funding to establish the recommended model as dictated in House Bill 843.
7. Tasks 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 outline and summarize the Consultant's tasks. Below there is a more detailed description of the six (6) tasks as outlined below:

TASK 1: Incorporate the findings by NewGen Strategies & Solutions Report under Task 1 (Evaluate City-County Existing Service Agreements for Water/Wastewater Services) of the Water/Sewer Services Comprehensive Business Process Review for Baltimore City and Baltimore County, as finalized in July 2021, into the Task Force's findings and recommendations report on or before January 30, 2024.

- i. Review service agreements, including the 1972 *Inter-governmental Water* and 1974 *Inter-governmental Sewer agreements*, and a number of additional agreements, to understand the context;
- ii. Summarize the existing service delivery frameworks, including the structure and key terms of the agreements, cost allocation methodology, key parameters included, and assumptions defined in the agreements;

- iii. Use visualizations and other techniques, as appropriate, when summarizing agreement terms and protocols to enable ease of understanding.

TASK 2: Incorporate the findings by NewGen Strategies & Solutions Report under Task 2 (Review the City and County Organizational Structure and Governance Models) of the Water/Sewer Services Comprehensive Business Process Review for Baltimore City and Baltimore County, as finalized in July 2021, into the Task Force's findings and recommendations report on or before January 30, 2024.

- i. Review the existing organizational structure within the City and the coordinated City-County governance model, specifically regarding water and sewer utility services delivery to the City and County customers. Where feasible, the Consultant shall provide the review summary and findings for each major function associated with the City's water and sewer utility services delivery;
- ii. Review the summarization of the City's existing governance processes and protocols for aspects including planning, decision-making, approvals, financing and rate-setting, performance management, dispute resolution, and hiring & training processes;
- iii. Review of the existing organizational structure within the County specific to the provision of water and sewer utility services. Where feasible, the Consultant shall provide the review summary and findings for each major function associated with the County's water and sewer utility services delivery;
- iv. Review the County's existing governance processes and protocols for aspects including planning, decision-making, approvals, performance management, and hiring processes.

TASK 3: Review the findings of the NewGen Strategies & Solutions Report under Task 2.4 (Governance Model Examples and Case Reviews) of the Water/Sewer Services Comprehensive Business Process Review for Baltimore City and Baltimore County, as finalized in July 2021 and other existing regional water and wastewater governance models to assess the pros and cons of different regional approaches may improve management, operations, employee recruitment, retention and training, billing and collections, planning for capital improvements, emergency management, and rate stability for customers.

- i. Review and assess the Governance Model case studies contained within the NewGen report and other governance models in the U.S. not contained within the NewGen report to assess the management of the utilities, roles of all relevant partners, and a complete SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats) of each different governance model with model with specific regard to potential improvements in:
 - (i) management;
 - (ii) operations;

- (iii) employee recruitment;
 - (iv) retention and training;
 - (v) billing and collections;
 - (vi) planning for capital improvements;
 - (vii) emergency management; and
 - (viii) rate stability for customers;
- ii. Review and assess which governance models amongst those referenced in the NewGen report and other governance models in the U.S. not contained within the NewGen report are feasible to serve as a reference point for governance structure options to be considered by the Task Force.

TASK 4: Assess alternative governance structures for the Baltimore region's water and wastewater utility, and develop a range of governance structure options for consideration by the Task Force to include models that services wholesale stakeholders.

- i. Based on the SWOT assessment of the examples reviewed and deemed a feasible reference point under Task 3, develop a range of governance structure options for water and wastewater systems for consideration by the Task Force to include models that services wholesale stakeholders.
- ii. Each governance structure option developed for consideration by the Task Force should include a framework for:
 - (i) Governance;
 - (ii) Financing;
 - (iii) Capital planning
 - (iv) Future system capacity expansion
 - (v) Decision-making processes; and
 - (vi) Ongoing operations and maintenance of safe, efficient, equitable, and affordable water and wastewater systems serving the Baltimore region.

TASK 5: Analyze the fiscal implications and efficiencies of each alternative governance structure, including estimated short- and long-term costs, 10-year historical costs that both jurisdictions to include wholesale stakeholders and regional partners have paid to the Utility, and cost-savings associated with:

- i. Analyze, assess, and outline estimated costs for both jurisdictions and regional stakeholders to transition to each governance structure option generated under Task 4, and any challenges and estimated timelines associated with transitioning to each governance structure option generated under Task 4;
- ii. Analyze, assess, and review asset leases and capital planning costs for both jurisdictions and regional stakeholders, and the fiscal implications for asset leases

- and capital planning costs under each alternative governance structure option generated under Task 4;
- iii. Analyzing, assessing, and reviewing rate restructuring for Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and other wholesale stakeholders (Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Anne Arundel County, Carroll County, Howard County, and Harford County), and the fiscal implications of rate restructuring under each alternative governance structure option generated under Task 4;
 - iv. Analyze, assess, and review all debt obligations, and assess the cost of consolidation and extension of debt for the Utility under each alternative governance structure option generated under Task 4;
 - v. Analyze, assess, and review staffing and pension liabilities for Baltimore City and Baltimore County under each alternative governance structure option generated under Task 4;
 - vi. Analyze, assess, and review 10-year historical contributions and ratepayer historical contribution from both jurisdictions and regional stakeholders into the shared systems; and
 - vii. Analyze, assess, and review other relevant costs to jurisdictions or customers served by the shared systems under each alternative governance structure option generated under Task 4.

TASK 6: Recommend the governance model best suited for water and wastewater systems in the Baltimore region and the necessary legislation and funding to establish the recommended model as dictated in House Bill 843.

- i. The recommendation should include, at a minimum, the following:
 - a. A review of the findings under Task 2.4 (Governance Model Examples and Case Reviews) of the Water/Sewer Services Comprehensive Business Process Review for Baltimore City and Baltimore County, and other existing regional water and wastewater governance models as described under Task 3;
 - b. An assessment of alternative governance structures for the Baltimore region's water and wastewater utility as described under Task 4;
 - c. An analysis of the fiscal implications and efficiencies of each alternative governance structure considered under Task 4, including short- and long-term costs, 10-year historical costs that both jurisdictions have paid to the utility, and cost savings as described under Task 5.
8. Provide comprehensive support to the Baltimore Regional Water Governance Task Force ("Task Force") in assisting the Task Force complete its duties and obligations as outlined in House Bill 843, including direct support to the Chair of the Task Force in preparing meeting agendas, supporting documentation for agenda items and assisting in facilitation of Task Force meetings where appropriate,

9. In developing the recommendations and report required under this section, the Consultant in conjunction with the Task Force, shall consult with the Department of the Environment and the Maryland Environmental Service.
10. On or before January 30, 2024, the Consultant in conjunction with the Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations to the Mayor of Baltimore City, the County Executive of Baltimore County, the Governor, and, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

11. Deliverables

The key deliverables expected include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. A summary briefing and observations, including best practices of Tasks 1-7, shall be delivered to the Task Force as follows or earlier:
 - a. 9/6/2023: Task Force Meeting #1 - Summary briefing and observations (Task 1 & 2)
 - b. 9/20/2023: Task Force Meeting #2 - Summary briefing and observations (Task 3 & 4)
 - c. 10/4/2023: Task Force Meeting #3 - Summary briefing and observations (Task 4 & 5)
 - d. 10/18/2023: Task Force Meeting #4 - Summary briefing and observations (Task 6)
- b. Preliminary Findings and Recommendations shall be delivered to the Task Force no later than November 15, 2023.
- c. Draft report for public comment shall be posted no later than December 13, 2023.
- d. Review and incorporate comments and edits of the Draft Report for Internal Review no later than January 19, 2024.
- e. Issuance of final Report on Findings and Recommendations no later than January 30, 2024.
- f. Meetings, interviews, and work sessions, as needed to fulfill Tasks 1 through 6, including a kickoff meeting with the Task Force promptly after execution of the Agreement, and status meetings at the end of the month, on dates and at times and locations to be mutually agreed upon by the parties.

Chapter 179

(House Bill 843)

AN ACT concerning

Baltimore Regional Water Governance Task Force

FOR the purpose of establishing the Baltimore Regional Water Governance Task Force to study approaches to water and wastewater governance in the Baltimore region; and generally relating to water supply and wastewater treatment in the Baltimore region.

Preamble

WHEREAS, The General Assembly of Maryland granted general authority to Baltimore City to develop a water supply system within and outside of its borders, impound and withdraw water from the Gunpowder River, the Patapsco River, and the Little Gunpowder River, and withdraw water from the Susquehanna River; and

WHEREAS, The water supply system developed by Baltimore City has supported the development and expansion of adjacent regional counties; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 539 of 1924 established a Metropolitan District within Baltimore County authorizing Baltimore County to construct, maintain, and operate wastewater systems within the Metropolitan District and required Baltimore City to extend the water supply lines within the Metropolitan District; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 729 of 1939 authorized Baltimore County to enter into contractual agreements with Baltimore City for the disposal of wastewater and for the establishment, construction, operation, and maintenance of and costs associated with the water supply and wastewater systems; and

WHEREAS, Baltimore County and Baltimore City entered into agreements in 1945 and 1963, and, most recently, in 1972 and 1974 recognizing that "substantial increases in population, volume of sewage, operation and maintenance costs, and costs of construction" for the jointly-used water and wastewater systems compelled updates to the jurisdiction management and funding of the systems; and

WHEREAS, In 1991, arbitration clarified that individuals who use water services within the Metropolitan District were customers of Baltimore City's water system and were principals of Baltimore County in the provision of water services; and

WHEREAS, Due to regional population growth, Baltimore City's water and wastewater system now provides water and wastewater service to additional jurisdictions, including Anne Arundel County, Carroll County, Harford County, and Howard County and now serves more than 1.8 million regional residents; and

WHEREAS, In accordance with Title 9, Subtitle 5 of the Environment Article, Baltimore City alone develops the plans for water supply and wastewater systems, including operations, maintenance, and capital investments, while Baltimore County pays their proportionate share of the costs; and

WHEREAS, Baltimore City and Baltimore County jointly engaged consultants to conduct a comprehensive business process review to identify strengths and weaknesses of the current governance, planning, data management, and operations of the water and wastewater utilities, to identify opportunities to improve interjurisdictional collaboration, and to understand the current state of the structures and processes for the delivery of water and wastewater services, including operations, planning, and billing, the results of which were finalized in July 2021 in the Water/Sewer Services Comprehensive Business Process Review; and

WHEREAS, The consultants provided several models of governance and operations that may provide optimal customer service, system reliability, or interjurisdictional collaboration, and specifically recommended the exploration of alternative governance structures; and

WHEREAS, The consultants highlighted the development, operations, and governance of several existing regional models for water and wastewater across the country; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
That:

(a) There is a Baltimore Regional Water Governance Task Force.

(b) (1) The Task Force consists of the following members:

(i) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of the Senate;

(ii) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

(iii) two members appointed by the Governor;

(iv) five members appointed by the Mayor of Baltimore City;

(v) three members appointed by the County Executive of Baltimore County; and

(vi) one member from either Anne Arundel County, Carroll County, Howard County, or Harford County, appointed by the Chair of the Baltimore Metropolitan Council.

(2) Each member shall:

(i) have knowledge of:

1. water;
2. wastewater; or
3. financing of water or wastewater infrastructure; or

(ii) represent ratepayers in their respective jurisdictions.

(c) The Mayor of Baltimore City and the County Executive of Baltimore County shall jointly designate a chair of the Task Force.

(d) The Mayor of Baltimore City and the County Executive of Baltimore County shall jointly provide staff for the Task Force.

(e) A member of the Task Force:

(1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but

(2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

(f) (1) The Task Force shall strive for consensus among its members.

(2) An affirmative vote of 10 members is needed for the Task Force to act.

(g) The Task Force shall:

(1) review the findings under Task 2 (Review the City and County Organizational Structure and Governance Models) of the Water/Sewer Services Comprehensive Business Process Review for Baltimore City and Baltimore County, as finalized in July 2021;

(2) review the findings under Task 2.4 (Governance Model Examples and Case Reviews) of the Water/Sewer Services Comprehensive Business Process Review for Baltimore City and Baltimore County, as finalized in July 2021, and other existing regional water and wastewater governance models to assess how different regional approaches may improve:

- (i) management;
- (ii) operations;
- (iii) employee recruitment;
- (iv) retention and training;
- (v) billing and collections;
- (vi) planning for capital improvements;
- (vii) emergency management; and
- (viii) rate stability for customers;

(3) assess alternative governance structures for the Baltimore region's water and wastewater utility, including frameworks for:

- (i) governance;
- (ii) financing;
- (iii) capital planning;
- (iv) future system capacity expansion;
- (v) decision-making processes; and

(vi) ongoing operations and maintenance of safe, efficient, equitable, and affordable water and wastewater systems serving the Baltimore region;

(4) analyze the fiscal implications and efficiencies of each alternative governance structure, including estimated short- and long-term costs, 10-year historical costs that both jurisdictions have paid to the utility, and cost-savings associated with:

- (i) systems transitions;
- (ii) asset leases and capital planning;
- (iii) rate restructuring for Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and other wholesale stakeholders;
- (iv) debt consolidation and extension;
- (v) staffing and pension liabilities; and

(vi) other relevant costs to jurisdictions or customers served by the shared systems; and

(5) recommend the governance model best suited for water and wastewater systems in the Baltimore region and the necessary legislation and funding to establish the recommended model.

(h) In developing the recommendations and report required under this section, the Task Force shall consult with the Department of the Environment and the Maryland Environmental Service.

(i) ~~It is the intent of the General Assembly that the Task Force strengthen the governance of the Baltimore region's water and wastewater utility as a public asset.~~

~~(j)~~ On or before January 30, 2024, the Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations to the Mayor of Baltimore City, the County Executive of Baltimore County, the Governor, and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety, has been passed by a ye and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members elected to each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from the date it is enacted. It shall remain effective through June 30, 2024, and, at the end of June 30, 2024, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Approved by the Governor, April 24, 2023.